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Security Council

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Letter dated 23 December 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the documents handed over to Kuwait by Iraq in October 2002 under United Nations supervision and in the presence of a team from the League of Arab States.

We should like to state in this connection that the relevant Kuwaiti authorities have, as agreed, examined the documents received in accordance with the handover schedules that were signed and that explicitly stipulated that Kuwait would have a period of 60 days in which to authenticate and assess the significance of the documents returned. Our examination has shown that the documents returned consist of routine papers and correspondence between State ministries and of application forms and that they do not in any way amount to what might be regarded as the archives of the State.

It should be recalled that in a letter addressed to you and circulated in document S/2002/1275, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, responding to a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq (S/2002/1237, annex), notified you on a tentative basis that from a preliminary examination made by the agencies concerned, and despite the fact that they included files belonging to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Amir, it had become evident that the documents consisted of commonplace and routine correspondence.

We therefore call upon you to continue your sustained efforts and, through the high-level Coordinator, Ambassador Yuli M. Vorontsov, to intervene with the Iraqi Government and urge it to return all of the documents that represent the State's archives and institutional memory, especially those of the Office of the Amir, the Office of the Heir Apparent, the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as all other property, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, namely resolutions 686 (1991), 687 (1991) and 1284 (1999).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mansour Ayyad Sh. A. **Al-Otaibi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

02-75626 (E) 261202 261202

United Nations S/2002/1413

Security Council

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Letter dated 19 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with your letter dated 16 December 2002, in which you authorized me to continue to work with the President of the Security Council to prepare and submit a final report on the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola, please find herewith the requested final report covering the major activities of the above Committee from 1 January to 9 December 2002 (see annex). I would be grateful if the report could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

02-75672 (E) 060103

Annex to the letter dated 19 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Report submitted pursuant to the letter dated 16 December 2002 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to the Security Council in accordance with the aforementioned letter. The report contains information on the activities of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola from 1 January to 9 December 2002, when the sanctions measures were terminated by the Security Council in its resolution 1448 (2002). The Council also decided in the same resolution to dissolve the Committee with immediate effect.

2. A report of the Committee covering its activities from 1 January to 31 December 2001 was submitted to the Security Council on 7 March 2002 (S/2002/243).

3. For 2002, the Bureau of the Committee consisted of Ambassador Richard Ryan (Ireland) as Chairman, with the delegations of Cameroon and Colombia providing the two Vice-Chairmen.

4. During 2002, the Committee held four formal meetings and several informal meetings. Five joint informal meetings were held with the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone and resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia.

II. Background information

5. The first sanctions — arms and petroleum embargoes — were imposed against the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) by the Security Council in its resolution 864 (1993) on 15 September 1993. In its resolution 1127 (1997), adopted on 28 August 1997, the Council imposed a travel ban on senior officials of UNITA and adult members of their immediate families as designated by the Committee, the closure of UNITA offices, the prohibition of flights of aircraft by or for UNITA and the supply of any aircraft, aircraft components or aircraft servicing to UNITA. Some exemptions were established with regard to medical emergencies and flights carrying supplies for essential humanitarian needs, as approved by the Committee.

6. In its resolution 1173 (1998) of 12 June 1998, the Security Council decided to expand the measures imposed against UNITA. Those measures required States, except Angola, to freeze UNITA funds within their territory and ensure that those funds were not made available directly to or for the benefit of UNITA as an organization or of senior officials of UNITA or adult members of their immediate families, as designated pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 1127 (1997). States were also required to take the necessary measures to prevent all official contacts with UNITA leadership; prohibit the import from Angola of diamonds not controlled

through the Government's Certificate of Origin; prohibit the sale or supply, to persons and entities in areas of Angola to which State administration had not been extended, of equipment used in mining or mining services as well as motorized vehicles or watercraft or spare parts for such vehicles, or ground or water-borne transportation services.

7. Following the death of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi on 22 February 2002, UNITA and the Government of Angola signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 4 April 2002 (S/2002/483), in which the parties committed themselves to take all necessary measures to cease hostilities. In line with those developments, on 28 March 2002, the Security Council had issued a presidential statement indicating it was "ready to consider appropriate and specific exemptions" to the travel ban imposed by resolution 1127 (1997) in order to facilitate negotiations (S/PRST/2002/7). On 17 May 2002, the Council decided, by its resolution 1412 (2002), to suspend the travel restrictions imposed by resolution 1127 (1997) on senior UNITA officials and adult members of their immediate families for a period of 90 days. The travel restrictions were suspended for an additional 90 days through resolution 1432 (2002) of 15 August 2002. The Council decided to lift these travel restrictions at the end of this period, i.e. on 14 November 2002, by its resolution 1439 (2002) of 18 October 2002. That resolution also contained a decision "to review, with a view to the possible lifting of, all the measures in resolutions 864 (1993), 1127 (1997) and 1173 (1998) by 19 November 2002, taking into account all available information, including from the Government of Angola and all other parties involved, on the implementation of the peace accords".

8. In its resolution 1237 (1999), adopted on 7 May 1999, the Security Council established a Panel of Experts with a six-month mandate to trace violations regarding arms, petroleum, representation, travel and diamonds, as well as the movement of UNITA funds. The Panel submitted its report (S/2000/203) to the Committee on 28 February 2000. In its resolution 1295 (2000), adopted on 18 April 2000, the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish a monitoring mechanism to collect additional relevant information relating to violations of the sanctions measures, investigate any relevant leads initiated by the Panel of Experts and report periodically to the Committee with a view to improving the implementation of the measures imposed against UNITA.

9. On 11 July 2000, the Secretary-General appointed the five-member Monitoring Mechanism and selected Ambassador Juan Larrain (Chile) as its Chairman (S/2000/677). In addition to Ambassador Larrain, Ms. Christine Gordon (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Mr. James Manzou (Zimbabwe), Mr. Ismaila Seck (Senegal) and Ambassador Lena Sundh (Sweden) were appointed as members of the Mechanism.

10. The mandate of the Mechanism was extended on five occasions. It was extended by three months on 23 January 2001 by resolution 1336 (2001) and by an additional six months on 19 April 2001 by resolution 1348 (2002). On 19 October 2001, by its resolution 1374 (2001), the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the Mechanism for a further six months and requested the Secretary-General to appoint four experts to serve on the Mechanism, which he did on 24 October 2001 by appointing four members of the Mechanism (S/2001/1009): Ambassador Juan Larrain, Ms. Christine Gordon, Mr. Ismaila Seck and Mr. Wilson Kalumba (Zambia). The Council again extended the mandate of the Mechanism by

six months in its resolution 1404 (2002) of 18 April 2002, and on 26 April 2002, the Secretary-General reappointed the four members of the Monitoring Mechanism (S/2002/487). On 18 October 2002, by its resolution 1439 (2002), the Security Council extended the mandate of the Mechanism for two months, requesting the Secretary-General to appoint two experts to serve on the Monitoring Mechanism. Subsequently, on 25 October 2002, the Secretary-General reappointed the Chairman, Ambassador Juan Larrain, and Mr. Ismaila Seck (S/2002/1204).

11. Since its establishment, the Mechanism has submitted seven reports to the Security Council through the Committee. The first, the interim report (S/2000/1026), was submitted to the Committee on 16 October 2000, a final report (S/2000/1225 and Corr.1 and 2) on 21 December 2000, an addendum to the final report (S/2001/363) on 11 April 2001, a supplementary report (S/2001/966) on 8 October 2001, another supplementary report (S/2002/486) on 9 April 2002 and an additional report (S/2002/1119) on 7 October 2002. In its resolution 1439 (2002), paragraph 4, the Council requested the Mechanism to submit a further additional report to the Committee by 13 December 2002, focusing in particular on possible violations of measures imposed against UNITA that might have occurred since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on 4 April 2002 and the identification of UNITA funds and financial resources frozen pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 1173 (1998).

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee during the reporting period

12. On 6 March 2002, the Committee issued a press release (SC/7322) stating that two names had been deleted from the Committee's list of senior UNITA officials and immediate adult family members. The Committee had made this decision through the no-objection procedure in accordance with Committee guidelines.

13. On 12 April 2002, at its 40th meeting, the Committee considered, on a preliminary basis, the report of the Monitoring Mechanism submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1374 (2001). The report detailed the Mechanism's pursuit of alleged sanctions violations and examined the role of criminal elements key to UNITA's capacity to continue to wage war, specifically through the purchase of arms and the smuggling of diamonds. In presenting the report to the Committee, Ambassador Larrain indicated the sanctions were "an instrument of peace". He advised that the measures should remain in place until the peace process was irreversible, although the Committee in his view should consider ad hoc exemptions to the travel ban in view of the ongoing peace process. The members of the Committee agreed that the sanctions had been a considerable asset in pursuing peace. Members highly appreciated the report and specified the type of issues that they would like to see investigated if the mandate of the Mechanism were to be extended, such as regional dimensions of UNITA sanctions, possible violations by diamond-importing countries and the activities of alleged arms trader Victor Bout. The Chairman submitted the report to the President of the Security Council in a letter dated 18 April 2002 and the report was issued as a document of the Council under the symbol S/2002/486.

14. On 8 May 2002, at its 41st meeting, the Committee continued to discuss the report submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1374 (2001). The Chairman

of the Mechanism emphasized the need for Member States to adopt effective regulations at the national level to enforce financial sanctions and the need to differentiate conflict diamonds from illicit diamonds. He reiterated the Mechanism's view that sanctions should be maintained until the peace process was irreversible. He distributed the Mechanism's plan of action for its new six-month mandate to the members. The Chairman of the Committee reported that he had written a letter to the Government of Angola, transmitting a number of requests for additional information relating to the list of senior UNITA officials and adult members of their immediate families that the Committee had received from Member States.

15. On 14 October 2002, at its 42nd meeting, the Committee, on a preliminary basis, considered the report of the Mechanism submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1404 (2002). The report detailed the results of the Mechanism's enquiries and investigations to date in view of the ongoing peace process. The Chairman of the Mechanism pointed out a number of continuing concerns, such as the need to complete the search for unaccounted UNITA arms caches and to ensure that the illicit trafficking of diamonds was halted. In the light of the positive developments related to the peace process, members considered the possible lifting of financial sanctions. The Chairman submitted the report to the President of the Security Council in a letter dated 14 October 2002 and the report was issued as a document of the Council under the symbol S/2002/1119. At the same meeting, the Chairman stated that his delegation had received new information from the Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations regarding the list of senior UNITA officials and adult members of their immediate families, which would be clarified in bilateral consultations between the Permanent Missions of Angola and Ireland before being disseminated to the members of the Council.

16. On 21 November 2002, at its 43rd meeting, the Committee concluded its consideration of the report of the Mechanism submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1404 (2002) and in addition heard a briefing from the Mechanism on its recent visit to Angola. The Mechanism reported that it had consulted with various Government and UNITA officials, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Angola and representatives of the Troika of Observer States, the European Union and Angolan civil society. Based on those consultations and in view of the fact that there had been no recent breaches of the ceasefire, the Mechanism concluded that the objectives of the sanctions had been met and recommended that the sanctions be lifted. Following on this recommendation and taking into account the recent statement by the Joint Commission in Angola calling for the lifting of all remaining sanctions against UNITA, members of the Committee were generally supportive of this view, although some members requested additional clarifications, which the Mechanism then attempted to provide. The Chairman finally suggested that the planned revision of the UNITA list be abandoned in the light of recent developments in Angola.

IV. Summary of the activities of the Monitoring Mechanism

17. During the mandate of the Monitoring Mechanism, from 20 October 2001 to 19 April 2002, the Mechanism pursued allegations of sanctions violations and continued to examine the role of criminal elements that were key in sustaining UNITA's capacity to continue the conflict. Considerable attention was also devoted to the issue of financial sanctions and the Mechanism was able to provide a brief

analysis of various systems and legislative procedures in place in a number of countries. During trips in January and March 2002, the Mechanism visited Angola, Belgium, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Zambia and Zimbabwe (Interpol Subregional Bureau for Southern Africa) for consultations, as well as carrying out consultations with the Organization of African Unity/African Union in Ethiopia, the Wassenaar Arrangement in Austria and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Botswana. Correspondence with a number of Member States provided information and clarification on allegations of sanctions violations.

18. During the six-month extension of its mandate from 20 April to 19 October 2002, the Monitoring Mechanism pursued enquiries and investigations it had initiated during its previous mandates. It followed up on investigations pertaining to the activities of individuals, private companies, government officials and institutions believed to be violating sanctions. Through correspondence addressed to numerous Member States and in visits in June and September to Angola, Belgium, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia and to the secretariats of SADC and the Wassenaar Arrangement also in September, the Mechanism enquired about measures taken to increase compliance, relevant legislation that might have been enacted and the progress of official investigations into illicit activities. A detailed description of the investigation of illicit diamond-trading and its results included a review of the current Certificate of Origin scheme in place in Angola. An assessment of the financial sanctions included a recommendation that this type of sanctions be accompanied by operating and procedural guidelines.

19. During the two-month final extension of its mandate from 20 October 2002 to 19 December 2002, the Mechanism travelled in early November to Angola, as under resolution 1439 (2002) it had been requested to carry out "ample consultations" in Angola with representatives of the Government and with officials from UNITA with a view to enabling the Council to consider a full review of the sanctions imposed on the latter. The Council had also requested the Mechanism to provide information on possible sanctions violations that might have occurred since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding of 4 April 2002, and to consider issues related to UNITA funds and financial resources that had been frozen by Member States. On the basis of the positive developments related to the peace process and having found no evidence of sanctions violations, on 12 November 2002, the Mechanism requested the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) to urgently convene a meeting. The Chairman of the Monitoring Mechanism informed the Committee on 20 November that the objectives of Security Council resolutions 864 (1993), 1127 (1997) and 1173 (1998) had been met. Given that UNITA was fulfilling its obligations within the context of the peace process, the Mechanism further recommended that the Council should consider lifting all sanctions on UNITA as a matter of priority, and at the earliest opportunity.

V. Observations and recommendations

20. This past year in Angola has provided an opportunity for UNITA and the Government of Angola to initiate a peace process. Sanctions may not have had a direct role in this development, but it has been generally recognized that sanctions considerably weakened the military potential of UNITA. The work of the Monitoring Mechanism on sanctions against UNITA, based on identifying the

sources and methods of violations of the sanctions, partly through quiet diplomacy and offering practical recommendations for further action, proved helpful to the Committee in ensuring the effectiveness of the sanctions. The Committee also greatly appreciates the consistent support of Member States, without which the Committee would not have been able to fully implement the sanctions regime.

21. The lifting of all remaining sanctions and the termination of the mandate of the Committee has come about following the adoption of resolution 1448 (2002) on 9 December 2002. In this connection, it may be useful to draw some lessons from the experience of the Committee during almost a decade of UNITA sanctions. First, the establishment of the Panel of Experts and the subsequent Monitoring Mechanism, working on the basis of the highest evidentiary and investigative standards, significantly enhanced the effectiveness of the sanctions. Secondly, in order to implement the mandatory decisions of the Security Council, it has been clear that States often require assistance in enacting necessary legislation and technical assistance to implement the sanctions at the national level. Thirdly, the reporting by Member States on sanctions violations and on measures taken domestically to implement the sanctions measures have been invaluable to the Committee and the Mechanism. Such reporting by Member States is strongly encouraged also with regard to other sanctions regimes. Fourthly, missions by the Chairman of the Committee to the region, for familiarization and direct contact with Governments and other interested parties, have been extremely useful, both for gathering information and as a sign of the Security Council's continuing interest in seeing the implementation of its measures. Finally, use of the Internet has been useful in maintaining a degree of transparency of the Committee's work, especially with regard to the list of senior UNITA officials and adult members of their immediate families.

22. A valuable body of knowledge and experience has been accumulated over the nearly 10 years that the sanctions measures against UNITA have been in force. It might be useful to collate the experience gained during the application of the UNITA sanctions in order to enhance the effectiveness of current and future sanctions regimes. Consideration could be given to an appropriate occasion for such an assessment to take place.

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Letter dated 20 December 2002 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone, containing an account of the activities of the Committee for the year 2002. The report, which was adopted by the Committee on 20 December 2002, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(*Signed*) Adolfo Aguilar **Zinser**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant
to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone

02-75666 (E) 020603

Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone covers the period from 1 January to 20 December 2002.

2. A report of the Committee covering its activities from January to December 2001 was submitted to the Security Council on 11 January 2002 (S/2002/50).

3. For 2002, the Bureau consisted of Jorge Eduardo Navarrete (Mexico) as Chairman, from 1 January to 27 January 2002, with the delegations of Cameroon and Singapore providing the Vice-Chairmen. Adolfo Aguilar Zinser (Mexico) served as Chairman of the Committee for the period from 28 January to 31 December 2002. During the reporting period, the Committee held four meetings, in addition to informal consultations.

II. Background information and summary of the work of the Committee

A. Background information

4. By its resolution 1132 (1997), adopted on 8 October 1997, the Security Council, determining that the situation in Sierra Leone, following the military coup of 25 May 1997, constituted a threat to international peace and security in the region, imposed a mandatory ban on the sale or supply by States to Sierra Leone of arms and related materiel, and petroleum and petroleum products. The Security Council, by paragraph 5 of the resolution, also imposed travel restrictions on members of the military junta and adult members of their families. Subsequently, by its resolution 1156 (1998) of 15 March 1998, the Council lifted the oil embargo, and by its resolution 1171 (1998) of 5 June 1998, it confirmed the removal of sanctions on the Government and reimposed the arms embargo and travel ban on leading members of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and of the former military junta.

5. On 5 July 2000, the Security Council adopted resolution 1306 (2000) in which, inter alia, it decided, in paragraph 1, that all States should prohibit the direct or indirect import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone to their territory.

6. At its 4442nd meeting, on 19 December 2001, the Security Council adopted resolution 1385 (2001), by which it extended for a period of 11 months, from 5 January 2002, the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1306 (2000), except that, pursuant to paragraph 5 of that resolution, rough diamonds controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone under the Certificate of Origin regime would continue to be exempt from those measures.

7. At its 4654th meeting, on 4 December 2002, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1446 (2002), by which it decided to extend, for a new period of six months, beginning on 5 December 2002, the prohibition of all import of Sierra

Leone rough diamonds except those controlled by the Government under the Certificate of Origin regime.

B. Summary of the activities of the Committee

8. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 1171 (1998), the Committee reported to the Council on 29 April 2002 (S/2002/498), on notifications received from States on the export of arms and related materiel to Sierra Leone as well as for deployment with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). The Committee also received a communication from the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations, dated 25 June 2002, concerning the intention of the Emir of the State of Qatar to make a gift of a helicopter to the President of Sierra Leone, to be used solely for the transportation of the President. According to the communication from Qatar, the Committee will be notified of the shipping and receiving details once they are determined.

9. On 1 August 2002, the Committee approved requests from the Governments of Sierra Leone and Switzerland for exemption to paragraph 5 of resolution 1171 (1998), for Johnny Paul Koroma, Leader of the Peace and Liberation Party, to enable him to attend the "Initiatives of Change" peace conference in Caux, Switzerland, from 3 to 13 August 2002. On 2 October 2002, the Committee approved a request from the Government of Sierra Leone for an exemption to the travel restrictions for Dr. Bailah Leigh, National Consultant to the National HIV/AIDS Control Programme, to attend the sixth meeting of the Regional Advisory Panel on Reproductive Health for the Africa and Eastern Mediterranean Regions, held at Tunis, from 14 to 18 October 2002.

10. In a letter dated 9 January 2002 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Chairman conveyed to the Council the Government of Sierra Leone's third review of the Certificate of Origin regime for the export of Sierra Leone diamonds (S/2002/38), which the Committee subsequently considered during its informal consultation on 19 February 2002.

11. In a letter dated 23 July 2002 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Chairman conveyed to the Council the Government of Sierra Leone's fourth review of the Certificate of Origin regime for the export of Sierra Leone diamonds (S/2002/826), which the Committee subsequently considered at its 27th and 28th meetings, on 22 July and 13 November 2002.

12. At its 25th meeting, held on 26 March 2002, the Committee adopted revised consolidated guidelines for the conduct of its work, which incorporated into the previously issued guidelines the relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions 1306 (2000) and 1385 (2001) and the subsequent decisions taken by the Committee to exempt from the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of the former resolution rough diamonds controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone through its Certificate of Origin regime. The Committee also decided to transmit the guidelines to all States, drawing their attention to paragraph 1 of resolution 1306 (2000) and also to the letters from the Chairman of the Committee to the President of the Security Council dated 6 October 2000 (S/2000/966) and 28 March 2001 (S/2001/300), containing decisions taken by the Committee related to the exemption of rough diamonds controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone through its Certificate of Origin regime from the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1306 (2000).

13. In response to a query submitted to the Committee by the head of the delegation of the European Commission regarding the use of the electronic recording and confirmation component of the Certificate of Origin regime, the Committee, at its 25th meeting, on 26 March 2002, agreed to write to the Government of Sierra Leone seeking its views. In its reply, the Government stated that, while the use of such an electronic system was preferred, it was not obligatory.

14. Also at the 25th meeting, the Committee considered a communication from the Government of Belgium which contained a dossier of five problems encountered in the implementation of Sierra Leone's Certificate of Origin regime for the export of rough diamonds. The Committee agreed to bring the dossier to the attention of the Sierra Leone authorities, thereby initiating an exchange of six letters that has served as a useful channel of communication to supplement the formal reviews submitted periodically by the Government of Sierra Leone. A sixth problem encountered in the implementation of the Certificate of Origin regime was brought to the attention of the Committee by a letter dated 7 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium. The Committee agreed to convey the contents of the letter to the Sierra Leone authorities, while at the same time drawing attention to similarities between the sixth case and the previous five cases.

15. Since the issuance of its previous annual report (S/2002/50), the Committee has received one reply from States (Mexico) on the implementation of paragraph 17, and one reply (Mexico) on the implementation of paragraph 8, of resolution 1306 (2000). In addition, the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations informed the Committee, by a note verbale dated 16 April 2002, of the measures taken by the Government of the Russian Federation to implement resolution 1385 (2001), although that resolution did not require States to provide such reports.

C. Violations and alleged violations of the sanctions regime

16. After considering a newspaper article which alleged that Mr. Johnny Paul Koroma had travelled to Ghana in contravention of paragraph 5 of resolution 1171 (1998), the Committee agreed that the Chairman should write to the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations in order to obtain additional information that could shed light on the alleged breach of the sanctions regime. When no reply was received to the Chairman's first letter, dated 4 March 2002, the Chairman sent a reminder letter, with the Committee's approval, on 14 June 2002. No reply to these letters has yet been received by the Committee.

17. In response to information it had received regarding the alleged travel of Mr. Johnny Paul Koroma to Nigeria on 3 February 2002 without the Committee's authorization, the Chairman sent a letter to the Permanent Representative of Nigeria seeking clarification on 4 March 2002. When no reply was received to the Chairman's first letter, the Chairman sent a reminder letter, with the Committee's approval, on 14 June 2002. The Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations replied to the Chairman's letter on 26 June 2002, wherein he noted that the alleged violation had been conveyed to the Government of Nigeria and that his Government's response would be made available to the Committee as soon as it was received.

18. The Committee furthermore considered at its 25th meeting a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations, detailing actions taken by the Belgian authorities in their investigation of Victor Bout, who had been identified as one of the main arms traffickers in Africa in reports by the panels of experts on Sierra Leone and Liberia, as well as by the Monitoring Mechanism for the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA). During the inquiry on Bout, the name of Sanjivan Ruprah emerged as Bout's closest associate. In connection with the Bout and Ruprah cases, the Belgian authorities informed the Committee that 18 house searches had been conducted simultaneously on 7 February 2002. As a result of the subsequent questionings, Sanjivan Ruprah, Carlos Laplaine and John Garnier had been placed under arrest and in detention. With the Committee's agreement, on 2 April 2002, the Chairman sent a response to the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, to express appreciation for the actions taken by the Government of Belgium.

19. At its informal consultations held on 8 May 2002, the Committee considered a letter from the Permanent Mission of the Gambia to the United Nations regarding the arrest by Gambian security forces of Pieter Judo Maarten Dervoden, a Belgian national, for trafficking in Sierra Leone diamonds. With the Committee's agreement, on 13 May 2002, the Chairman sent a response to the Permanent Representative of the Gambia to express appreciation for the actions taken by the Government of the Gambia. The Committee subsequently received an additional communication from the Permanent Mission of the Gambia, dated 9 December 2002, informing the Committee that, in connection with its previous communication, Pieter Judo Maarten Dervoden and Sorry Ebrima Touray (a Sierra Leone national) had pleaded guilty to, inter alia, the charge of importation of rough or uncut diamonds without a licence. Both accused persons were duly convicted in accordance with the relevant laws of the Gambia.

III. Other activities

20. Under the chairmanship of the delegation of Mexico, the Committee took part in five joint informal meetings with the participation of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola. The meetings were held on 24 April, 1, 14 and 17 May and 11 June 2002, and were convened to consider a list of topics for discussion which, the members agreed, might be beneficially explored in a joint forum. The topics included: cooperation with regional organizations; improved monitoring capacity; assistance to third States in implementing sanctions; ways to increase the effectiveness of targeted sanctions; and shared experiences on committee guidelines and working practices. The committees together received briefings from Mr. Ian Smillie, diamond expert and former member of the Panel of Experts on Sierra Leone, and from Ambassador Juan Larrain, Chairman of the Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against UNITA, on 17 May and 11 June 2002 respectively. The joint informal meetings were held in accordance with resolution 1306 (2000), paragraph 7 (e), in which the Council decided that the Sierra Leone sanctions committee should continue its cooperation with other relevant sanctions committees, in particular those pertaining to Liberia and Angola. Further, resolution 1343 (2001), in paragraph 14 (h), included, among the tasks of the Liberia sanctions

committee, cooperation with other relevant sanctions committees, in particular the Sierra Leone and Angola sanctions committees.

21. The Security Council conducted its fifth review of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1306 (2000) on 29 August 2002. On that occasion, the Chairman provided an extensive briefing to the Council which drew upon the fact-finding mission he had undertaken in the Mano River Union countries from 22 June to 4 July 2002. Through the President's statement to the press of 29 August 2002, the members of the Council, inter alia, expressed their appreciation to the Government of Sierra Leone for the submission of its fourth review of the Certificate of Origin regime and commended its efforts to monitor trade in diamonds through the creation of a mechanism to oversee and control domestic diamond mining. The members also took note of the problems still faced by the Sierra Leone Government in the areas of illicit production and diamond smuggling, and they therefore welcomed ongoing efforts among West African countries to develop a region-wide certification scheme and encouraged the Government of Sierra Leone to further strengthen its internal monitoring capacity. The members furthermore urged the international community and donor countries to support the ongoing efforts of the Sierra Leone Government to implement effective measures to control diamond certification and to promote economic development through mining activities.

22. When the Security Council decided by its resolution 1385 (2001), to extend for a period of 11 months from 5 January 2002 the prohibition of all import of Sierra Leone rough diamonds except those controlled by the Government under the Certificate of Origin regime, it also affirmed that, in addition to its six-monthly review in accordance with paragraph 15 of resolution 1306 (2000), it would review, at the end of the 11-month period described in the resolution, the situation in Sierra Leone, including the extent of the Government's authority over the diamond-producing area, in order to decide whether to extend those measures for a further period and, if necessary, to modify them or adopt additional measures. The Council subsequently conducted its review pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1385 (2001) on 4 December 2002. The Chairman circulated and read out a note which reflected, inter alia, the views on the diamond sanctions expressed by the members of the Committee at its 28th meeting, held on 13 November 2002. As the members of the Council had reached agreement on a draft resolution on Sierra Leone, the Chairman and the President of the Council agreed that it would not be necessary for the President to make any statement to the press regarding the sanctions on the import of Sierra Leone rough diamonds not controlled by the Certificate of Origin regime. On the same day, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1446 (2002) (see para. 7 above).

23. Between 22 June and 4 July 2002, the Chairman visited Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea to consider problems encountered in the implementation of the Security Council's sanctions measures and to improve their effectiveness; to send a political signal to all States concerning the importance attached by the Council to the implementation of its sanctions regimes; and to discuss opportunities for regional approaches to stem the illicit traffic in small arms and diamonds. During the same period, in connection with the objectives of his fact-finding mission to the region, the Chairman also visited the Government of Belgium's Task Force on Conflict Diamonds in Brussels, the Wassenaar Arrangement secretariat in Vienna and Interpol Headquarters in Lyon, France. Extensive discussions were held with key representatives of the three Mano River Union countries, including with the

Presidents of Sierra Leone and Liberia and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea. In Sierra Leone, the Chairman visited several UNAMSIL deployments in the diamond-producing areas formerly under the control of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). The Chairman presented a detailed oral report on his visit to the Committee on 11 and 22 July 2002, and briefed the Security Council on his mission on 11 July 2002.

IV. Observations

24. In the absence of a specific monitoring mechanism to ensure the effective implementation of the sanctions regime, the Committee urges all States and organizations in a position to provide it with pertinent information to do so. The mandate of the Committee pertaining to the arms embargo could also be facilitated by reports through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and UNAMSIL.

United Nations S/2002/1415

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 December 2002

Original: English

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on Afghanistan,

Reaffirming also its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and to peace and stability throughout the region,

Recognizing the Transitional Administration as the sole legitimate Government of Afghanistan, pending democratic elections in 2004, and reiterating its strong support for the full implementation of the Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions (the Bonn Agreement),

Reaffirming its strong commitment to assist the Transitional Administration in its efforts to ensure security, prosperity, tolerance and respect for human rights for all people of Afghanistan, and to combat terrorism, extremism and narco-trafficking,

1. *Welcomes and endorses* the Kabul Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations signed by the Transitional Administration of Afghanistan and the Governments of China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the States neighbouring Afghanistan, in Kabul on 22 December 2002 (S/2002/1416);

2. *Calls on* all States to respect the Declaration and to support the implementation of its provisions;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council as appropriate on the implementation of the Declaration, in the context of his regular reporting on Afghanistan, including information provided by the signatories;

4. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

02-75592 (E) 241202

United Nations S/2002/1416

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 December 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 24 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations, signed by the Transitional Administration of Afghanistan and the Governments of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the States neighbouring Afghanistan, in Kabul, on 22 December 2002 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the attached Declaration circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) A. G. Ravan **Farhâdi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-75586 (E) 241202

Annex to the letter dated 24 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

AFGHANISTAN: GOOD NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS DECLARATION

The Transitional Administration of Afghanistan and the governments of the People's Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan, the states neighbouring Afghanistan;

Determined that the people of Afghanistan should enjoy security, stability, prosperity, territorial integrity, democracy and human rights after so many years of conflict, suffering and deprivation;

United in their desire for peace and stability in the region;

Sharing a determination to defeat terrorism, extremism, and narco-trafficking;

Celebrating the first anniversary of the formation of the new Afghan Administration as a result of the Bonn Talks and the progress made in implementing the Bonn Agreement, and recognising that significant challenges lie ahead in creating prosperity and stability;

Solemnly reaffirm their commitment to constructive and supportive bilateral relationships based on the principles of territorial integrity, mutual respect, friendly relations, co-operation and non-interference in each other's internal affairs;

Welcome the combined efforts of the wider international community to provide the support required for rebuilding Afghanistan as it continues to take its rightful place in the community of nations, and express their commitment to participate in this process;

And, furthermore, decide to bring this declaration to the attention of the United Nations Security Council and gain the support of other states for it.

United Nations S/2002/1417

Security Council

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24 December 2002

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Sixteenth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 1436 (2002) of 24 September 2002, the Security Council urged the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) to complete, within eight months, the first and second phases of the Mission's drawdown plan, which was presented in my fifteenth report (S/2002/987). The Council also requested me to report on progress made at the end of each phase and in the planning of subsequent phases. In the same resolution, the Council authorized the deployment of up to 170 civilian police in UNAMSIL and requested me to provide an update on their deployment. The present report provides the requested updates, as well as an assessment of progress made towards achieving the key security benchmarks set out in my fifteenth report and the overall efforts to consolidate peace in Sierra Leone.

II. Implementation of the drawdown plan

2. The first two phases of the UNAMSIL drawdown plan, as approved in Security Council resolution 1436 (2002), envisaged a reduction in the troop strength of the Mission from 17,500 to 13,000 by 31 May 2003. The first phase was completed on 8 November 2002 with the withdrawal of 600 troops from the Bangladeshi and Nigerian contingents, as well as reconnaissance helicopters that were considered no longer essential. In addition to the repatriation of these units, elaborate adjustments in troop deployments on the ground were conducted, in order to prepare the stage for the more substantial troop reductions expected in the second phase. As part of the already completed adjustments, UNAMSIL troops vacated three deployment areas, in Bonthe, Koinadugu and Port Loko districts, and reduced the United Nations military presence in Kambia district. All these areas were assessed as being ready for handover to Sierra Leone's security forces with minimum risk.

3. Implementation of the second phase of the drawdown, which envisages the withdrawal of 3,900 troops from the Mission, is in progress. Their repatriation will be conducted in two stages. In the first stage, one Bangladeshi unit (BANBATT 5) will be repatriated during the month of December 2002, and the Pakistani artillery unit (PAKARTY) will be withdrawn in January 2003. In addition, the entire United Nations peacekeeping force will be reorganized into three instead of the present five sectors. The new sector structure will consist of sector west led by the Nigerian

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contingent, whose headquarters will be in Freetown, as well as a Bangladeshi-led sector centre commanded from Magburaka, and a Pakistani-led sector east with headquarters in Koidu. As a result of this restructuring, the military staff at the headquarters of the two sectors to be dismantled will also be repatriated together with their associated signals units.

4. The second de-induction stage will follow a short period of review and consolidation, and will run from March to May 2003. Three major units from the Nigerian contingent (NIBATT 13), the Guinean battalion (GUINBATT) and the Bangladeshi logistics unit (BANLOG), along with the Ghanaian level 2 hospital, are expected to be repatriated during this stage. Adjustments to the locations of several elements of the force will accompany these reductions, and UNAMSIL troops plan to vacate areas in Kambia, Bombali, Koinadugu, Pujehun and Kenema districts, as well as in the western area.

5. In the meantime, planning for the third phase is already at an advanced stage. A detailed description of the envisaged adjustments under this phase will be presented in my March 2003 report to the Security Council. UNAMSIL intends to implement this phase in four steps beginning with a gradual withdrawal of troops from sector centre and proceeding with withdrawals from sectors east and west, to be conducted only after careful assessment of the prevailing security situation and gauging of the capacity of Sierra Leone's police and armed forces to maintain security on their own in these sensitive areas. It is also envisaged that during all phases of the drawdown process, the United Nations military observers will remain active across the entire country and will play a crucial role in assessing the security environment as well as the performance of Sierra Leone's security forces.

III. Strengthening the security sector

6. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 1436 (2002), the Security Council stipulated that the implementation of the UNAMSIL drawdown plan should be guided by an evaluation of the security situation in the country and a review of the capacity of Sierra Leone's security sector to take responsibility for internal and external security. To this end, UNAMSIL and the Government of Sierra Leone have established joint mechanisms, including an integrated planning group and joint meetings of senior UNAMSIL military officers and the National Security Coordination Group, which convene regularly to take stock of the prevailing security conditions. In addition, the Steering Committee that coordinates the efforts to strengthen the Sierra Leone police is now operational. The Committee comprises the Sierra Leone police and UNAMSIL, as well as the Commonwealth police advisers, and is chaired by the Inspector General of the Sierra Leone police.

7. During the period under review, the integrated planning group, which brings together the relevant UNAMSIL military and civilian officers, as well as representatives of the Sierra Leone army and police, has conducted rigorous monitoring of the conditions on the ground and evaluation of potential risk factors. Information collected by United Nations military observers and civil affairs officers deployed throughout the country, as well as Sierra Leone army and UNAMSIL troops conducting intensive patrols in the border areas, greatly facilitated the evaluation by the integrated planning group. The assessments of the group indicate

that, with the exception of the areas along the Sierra Leone-Liberia border, the internal security situation in Sierra Leone has remained generally stable.

8. The conflict in Liberia remains a major concern for sustained stability in Sierra Leone. During the month of November, there was an upsurge of raids by armed Liberians searching for food in Sierra Leonean villages in the border areas. Though difficult to confirm, reports abound of recruitment of former Sierra Leonean combatants by both the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and Liberian government forces. At the same time, the camp created by the Government of Sierra Leone to accommodate Liberian combatants fleeing from both LURD and government forces is now operational, and currently holds 64 inmates, of whom 56 are former members of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and 8 former members of LURD. The creation of the camp should facilitate the separation of armed elements that infiltrate refugee camps. However, the deteriorating conditions in the refugee camps, as described in paragraph 29 below, could also create additional security challenges.

Sierra Leone police

9. The efforts of the Government, UNAMSIL and the Commonwealth team to strengthen the Sierra Leone police force are now focusing on the recruitment of new cadets, and the training of both the fresh recruits and serving personnel, as well as providing the equipment and infrastructure necessary for the effective functioning of the force. The Government has tentatively indicated its intention to bring the strength of the national police force to its pre-war level of 9,500 personnel. However, a review of the police establishment is currently under way, with a view to determining the optimum strength that would enable it to take effective responsibility for internal security. It is expected that the review will be completed in February 2003. In the meantime, the Government plans to increase the strength of the national police force by 1,000 personnel in 2003. From the ongoing recruitment exercise, 189 new cadets graduated from the Hastings Police Training School in early December and a further 200 were enrolled for training in mid-December.

10. The Steering Committee responsible for coordinating international support for strengthening the capacity of the police force held its first meeting on 18 October 2002. The activities of the Committee during the reporting period focused on implementing paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 1436 (2002), in particular analysing the detailed training needs of the police force and developing recommendations on the deployment of the 170 civilian police personnel in UNAMSIL. The Committee has finalized the concept of operation of the United Nations civilian police and developed profiles of the required training personnel. In this regard, the Committee has requested the United Nations to give priority to the deployment of a chief training officer and mentors who would coach the Sierra Leone police at the division level. The Committee also requested the United Nations to provide civilian police personnel who would advise the Sierra Leone police in specialized areas such as policing diamond mining, airport security, transnational crime and policy planning.

11. As of 17 December, the Secretariat had interviewed 55 civilian police candidates for deployment to UNAMSIL. Of these, 19 mentors and 4 trainers had been deployed, based on profiles developed by the Steering Committee. A chief

training officer and a policy planning specialist have also been selected and are undergoing pre-deployment formalities in their respective countries. In addition, as it phases out the remaining civilian police advisers that have been serving with UNAMSIL under its previously mandated tasks, the Mission has also identified 14 qualified trainers among them who will be retained to carry out the new training tasks. I urge Member States in a position to do so to make available the required civilian police personnel for UNAMSIL in a timely manner.

12. The provision of the requisite infrastructure and equipment for the Sierra Leone police poses greater challenges than the recruitment and training of the police personnel. UNAMSIL (through Japan's contribution to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sierra Leone), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have already provided support for the rehabilitation of key infrastructure in Freetown, Koidu, Lunsar, Makeni, Kambia, Blama, Koindu, Mongeri, Kabala and Mattru Jong. However, police stations, posts and barracks need to be constructed or rehabilitated in many more areas. In its National Recovery Strategy, the Government estimates that some $1,930,000 will be needed for this purpose, and the current shortfall for this vital area stands at $775,000 for 2003. With regard to equipment, the critical needs are in the areas of communications and transportation. The Sierra Leone police has indicated that, in order to achieve acceptable standards, its current fleet of 480 vehicles should be nearly doubled, and that $3.5 million is needed to enhance its communications system.

Sierra Leone armed forces

13. The Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) continues to receive training and restructuring support from the United Kingdom-led International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT). The restructuring process is expected to result in the reduction of the force from its current strength of approximately 14,000 to about 10,500 troops, with accompanying measures to ensure the proper reinsertion of demobilized soldiers into the civilian community. It should be noted, however, that the armed forces still lack the necessary infrastructure for their effective operation. Within Freetown, the infrastructure in terms of barracks and accommodation is dilapidated and overcrowded; in the countryside, there is considerable shortage of suitable barracks and the standard accommodation consists of rudimentary grass structures. The living conditions are worse in the border areas where a third of the force is now deployed.

14. Nevertheless, RSLAF is now a much-improved force and is effectively patrolling both the border areas and Sierra Leone's waters. While no UNAMSIL support can be extended to the navy, the army continues to rely upon UNAMSIL as a backstop and for some logistic support, particularly in the areas along the Liberian border, where UNAMSIL MI-24 helicopter gunships are also routinely patrolling. For RSLAF to be able to sustain the current high level of border operations in the long term, well-established garrison barracks, including accommodation for families, will be required as a matter of priority. A timetable must be drawn up to meet this important need against the UNAMSIL drawdown plan, which envisages the handover of security to the army and police in sector centre over the next 12 months. Although RSLAF self-confidence is growing, the general public is yet to be fully convinced of the long-term reliability of the armed forces. To redress this

perception, the Government's own moral and material commitment to improving the effectiveness of the armed forces will be absolutely necessary.

15. During the reporting period, UNAMSIL continued to conduct joint patrols with both the Sierra Leone police in Freetown and in the districts, and the national army in the border areas, as a means of bolstering their confidence and assessing their capacity to act independently. In this context, UNAMSIL feels that the capacity of the national police to maintain internal security on their own in areas vacated by UNAMSIL is yet to be tested. It should be noted that the areas vacated during the first phase of the drawdown were considered relatively low-risk areas, which do not require the deployment of large numbers of police personnel. However, the second phase of the drawdown will require considerable redeployment of the existing police personnel to fill the security vacuum that is to be created by the departing United Nations troops, while the third phase will demand an increase in the overall strength of the national police force.

IV. Peace consolidation

16. UNAMSIL has continued to work with the Government and development partners in the efforts to consolidate long-term stability in Sierra Leone. The priority tasks on this front include consolidating State authority throughout the country, completing the reintegration of ex-combatants, and restoring the Government's control over diamond mining, as well as promoting human rights, national reconciliation and justice. The efforts to address the remaining humanitarian challenges and accelerate economic recovery are also crucial to the consolidation of peace and stability.

Consolidating State authority

17. In the last few months, the Government has taken commendable steps towards consolidating State authority throughout the country. Efforts at decentralization and empowerment of local communities have focused on three key areas, namely, the deployment of government officials to the districts, as well as filling the 63 posts of Paramount Chiefs that fell vacant during the war, and restoring elected district councils. Approximately 90 per cent of government officials have returned to their posts in the districts and the Government has set March 2003 as the target date for the return of all remaining officials. The process of filling the vacant posts of Paramount Chiefs commenced on 2 December 2002 and is expected to be concluded in all districts by 20 January 2003. As of 17 December, 17 of these posts had been filled. In the meantime, local government elections are scheduled to take place in early 2003. However, complementary efforts to build the capacity of key local government structures to deliver basic services to the people still need to be undertaken. The immediate needs in training of personnel, rehabilitation of infrastructure and provision of logistics have been identified in the Government's National Recovery Strategy.

18. Some progress, albeit modest, is being made in the efforts to extend the court system throughout the country and reform the judiciary. Magistrates' courts have been refurbished with the assistance of the United Kingdom and UNAMSIL, and are now operational in Makeni, Magburaka, Kabala and Koidu. However, judicial

coverage remains inadequate in most areas owing, in part, to lack of trained personnel and logistic constraints. The extension of the court system will obviously be essential for the effectiveness of the national police as it assumes responsibility for law and order in the areas to be vacated by UNAMSIL.

Reintegration of ex-combatants

19. The efforts to create reintegration opportunities for former combatants have recently made encouraging progress. In addition to the opportunities created under the World Bank-managed Multi-Donor Trust Fund, have been offered parallel projects that are absorbing significant numbers of ex-combatants by Germany the United Kingdom, the United States of America, UNDP and UNAMSIL (through Japan's contribution to the Human Security Fund), as well as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). To date, some 38,850 ex-combatants have benefited from either completed or currently ongoing reintegration projects, leaving a caseload of approximately 17,900 former combatants. Taking into account the parallel projects referred to above and anticipated contributions to the World Bank-managed Multi-Donor Trust Fund, the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration has indicated that it should be possible to provide reintegration opportunities for all the remaining ex-combatants by the end of 2003.

20. Meanwhile, the former combatants that have yet to participate in reintegration projects, particularly those from the Civil Defence Force (CDF), still represent a serious security challenge. CDF officials in the southern province recently disclosed to UNAMSIL that, although the force's combatants had disarmed, they were keeping some 19 of their battalions (approximately 10,200 personnel) and their command structures intact, and that CDF intended to keep these structures intact until the ex-combatants received their reintegration benefits. However, as decided during the Consultative Group meeting held in Paris on 13 and 14 November 2002 the Government has undertaken to disband all CDF structures by January 2003.

21. The existence of large numbers of idle former combatants has also contributed to the proliferation of strident youth groups that have continued to usurp the Government's authority in diamond mining areas where State policing remains inadequate. Recognizing the need to address this issue, the Government has formed a Ministry of Youth, which is actively opening channels of communication with the youth groups with a view to directing their energies towards developmental efforts. Nevertheless, it is clear that only the revival of economic activity and the creation of long-term employment opportunities can address the potential security threats presented by the activities of some of these groups.

Restoration of government control over diamond mining

22. The restoration of effective government control over diamond mining has become even more urgent as UNAMSIL draws down. The competition for control by non-State actors in this vital sector is creating unwelcome pressures at both national and local levels. The existence of strident youth groups and predatory traders in the diamond-producing areas creates an atmosphere of distrust and tension. The State mining authorities are still largely ineffective on the ground, and

the Sierra Leone police have been excluded from enforcing the regulatory measures that currently exist in the country. The National Security Coordination Group is seized of the need to introduce new legislation with the guidance provided by the United Kingdom-sponsored mining advisers. In this context, it is hoped that the United Nations civilian police diamond mining expert requested by the Police Steering Committee will contribute to effective policing of the diamond mining areas. In the meantime, in the course of its regular air patrols, UNAMSIL has facilitated aerial assessment of the extent of illegal diamond mining by Ministry of Mines officials and advisers on reconnaissance missions in Pujehun, Kailahun and Kenema districts.

Promoting human rights, national reconciliation and justice

23. The human rights monitoring and capacity-building activities of UNAMSIL continue to constitute an important part of the efforts to consolidate peace and stability in Sierra Leone. In addition to continuing investigations into past human rights abuses and grave breaches of international humanitarian law, the Mission has encouraged the Government to take the necessary measures to facilitate the participation of victims of amputations in the truth and reconciliation process. The UNAMSIL Human Rights Section continues to monitor prison conditions and the process of reviving the judiciary in the provinces. The Mission, in cooperation with UNDP and the Government, is organizing a training programme for justices of the peace recently assigned in the provinces, which will take place in mid-January 2003. It also continues to provide human rights training for the Sierra Leone police and army personnel.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

24. Despite continuing financial constraints, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is now making encouraging progress in its work. It concluded the sensitization phase of its programme of work in October 2002, and launched the statement-taking phase on 4 December at Bomaru, the area where the conflict had begun in March 1991. Over 50 statement-takers have been deployed throughout the country and there are plans to open regional offices. This phase will be followed by public hearings, which will also take place throughout the country, with private interviews organized for vulnerable groups such as children and women victims of sexual abuse. In the meantime, the Commission has invited government, national and international agencies and individuals to provide submissions, that they may consider relevant to the work of the Commission. A caretaker committee is currently running the day-to-day affairs of the Commission, pending the appointment of a new executive secretariat.

Special Court

25. The Special Court for Sierra Leone is now fully operational, and its Registry is expanding its activities throughout the country. Significant progress has been made towards the completion of the permanent site of the Special Court. The swearing-in of the Judges of the Court took place on 2 December 2002. Also, on the same day,

the judges of the Trial and Appeals Chambers of the Special Court elected their respective presiding judges. Justice Geoffrey Robertson (United Kingdom) was elected presiding judge of the Appeals Chamber and President of the Court, while Judge Bankole Thompson (Sierra Leone) was elected presiding judge of the Trial Chamber.

26. UNAMSIL has been providing logistic, security and technical support to the Court, including the use of UNAMSIL radio and press facilities. As called for under Security Council resolution 1436 (2002), the Special Court and UNAMSIL have signed a Memorandum of Understanding covering areas of general assistance, including security and support for the Court's outreach programme, as well as technical and administrative assistance. In October 2002, UNAMSIL handed over to the Court a preliminary inventory of war-related killings and grave sites that have been investigated by the Mission.

V. Humanitarian, recovery and development challenges

27. There is growing consensus among Sierra Leone's international partners on the need for a progressive shift from large-scale relief assistance to recovery and development efforts. However, Sierra Leone still faces some major humanitarian challenges, in particular the provision of assistance to Liberian refugees, the repatriation and resettlement of Sierra Leonean refugees and meeting the needs of former child combatants and other separated children.

28. Some 5,037 of the 6,845 former child combatants, along with 2,097 other separated children, have been registered for support by child protection agencies and are participating in the community-based reintegration programme. In some areas, the tracing of missing children and their reunification with their families are still going on. Efforts to strengthen the capacity of local child protection institutions are also continuing. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between child protection agencies and the Sierra Leone army and police, which will ensure the inclusion of child protection and child rights issues in their training programmes. Child protection agencies have also initiated discussion with the Special Court on developing child-sensitive procedures for the involvement of children in the Court's proceedings.

29. The efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to facilitate the repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees and protect the large numbers of Liberian refugees coming into Sierra Leone have been hampered by the recent global funding shortfall faced by the agency. The repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees from Guinea and Liberia has been suspended on a number of occasions owing to lack of funding. The implementing partners of UNHCR have scaled down and, in some cases, terminated basic services for Liberian refugees, including education, sanitation, shelter and programmes to prevent sexual violence and exploitation. The resultant sub-standard conditions in the refugee camps have forced a number of Liberian refugees to either settle in border areas or return to insecure areas in Liberia. There are currently 23,000 Liberian refugees accommodated in camps in Sierra Leone, while 8,500 are living in urban areas and 12,000 in the border areas. UNHCR has indicated that $28.2 million is needed to cover its operational costs in Sierra Leone in 2003, for both repatriation and

reintegration of Sierra Leonean refugees and protection and assistance for Liberian refugees.

30. The final phase of the national programme to resettle internally displaced persons was completed in early December 2002. Some 11,000 displaced persons were resettled under this phase, mainly in the northern and western areas of the country. UNAMSIL continued to support the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in transporting the displaced persons to the resettlement areas. Approximately 220,000 internally displaced persons have been resettled since the programme began in April 2001. The Government and humanitarian agencies are now focusing on relocating squatters and homeless persons from urban areas to community settlements.

31. The Government's National Recovery Strategy continues to serve as an important short-term strategy that guides the transition from peacekeeping to peace-building and from relief to development, linking as it does the four priority areas of consolidating State authority, rebuilding communities, peace-building and human rights, and revival of the economy. The longer-term strategy, which is expected to result in a blueprint for the reduction of poverty (the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) is currently being developed and is expected to be completed by September 2003.

32. On 13 and 14 November 2002, the World Bank and UNDP jointly convened a Consultative Group meeting in Paris between the Government of Sierra Leone and its humanitarian and development partners, which reviewed progress achieved in consolidating peace and stability in the country and discussed the way ahead during the transition to sustainable peace and development. The meeting commended the Government for the significant progress it had made in 2002, particularly in maintaining macroeconomic stability and economic growth, as well as substantially increasing school enrolment and immunization rates and devising a multi-sector strategy for combating the menace of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). The meeting was informed that Sierra Leone's growth in gross domestic product (GDP) had risen from 2.8 per cent in 2000 to 5.4 per cent in 2001, and is expected to reach 6-7 per cent over the next two to three years. This growth, though remarkable, is, however, being achieved from a low base. The Government has also made progress in improving public resource management through fighting corruption and is instituting reforms aimed at addressing impediments to private sector development. With regard to delivery of basic social services, encouraging indicators include the rise in primary school enrolment from 42 per cent in 2001 to 59 per cent in 2002 and the increase in infant immunization rates for dominant diseases from 33 per cent in 2000 to 70 per cent in 2002.

33. At the Consultative Group meeting, the Government indicated that its main development priorities include action on corruption, strengthening the judiciary, improving financial management, public sector reform and the introduction of a performance-based public sector pay system, poverty reduction, action on education and health care, action on social exclusion and alienated youth, and combating HIV/AIDS. To accelerate economic growth, priority will also be accorded to private sector development, and restructuring agriculture, as well as to reviving the mining industry, rebuilding infrastructure and restoring human capital through community-based programmes.

34. At the end of the meeting, the Consultative Group agreed on a framework for peace, recovery and development, in which a number of key benchmarks were identified, which will serve as a frame of reference in evaluating the overall progress Sierra Leone is making towards the achievement of sustainable peace and development. These benchmarks also constitute a framework for the fulfilment of mutual responsibilities by the Government and its partners in support of national goals. The framework will be reviewed and progress assessed by the Government and its partners through a bimonthly aid-coordination mechanism, chaired at a high level by the Government. The development partners gave indications of continuing support for Sierra Leone, provided that the Government remains on track with respect to its governance reform and poverty reduction programmes, and is able to improve its disbursement capacity. As a follow-up to the Consultative Group meeting, a donor mission comprising representatives from Norway, Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and the European Union visited Sierra Leone from 3 to 6 December 2002 to assess the situation on the ground. The main concerns expressed by the mission included the limited capacity of implementing partners, instability in the subregion, the insufficient attention given to psychosocial rehabilitation, geographical disparities in development, and how to mobilize resources during the transition period.

VI. Observations

35. Developments over the past few months have already shown the prudence of pursuing a gradual drawdown of UNAMSIL over a reasonable period of time. In particular, the coordinated efforts by the Government and UNAMSIL to carefully evaluate the risk factors and avoid a security vacuum in areas vacated by UNAMSIL have continued to ensure a stable security environment, thus enabling the Government and development partners to concentrate on national recovery efforts. As recognized during the Consultative Group meeting held in Paris, the Government has already shown its determination to seize this unique opportunity and has taken commendable steps towards laying the foundation for long-term stability and sustained economic recovery. However, the remaining challenges are still considerable and fundamental breakthroughs will take some time to achieve.

36. It is gratifying to note that the efforts of the Government and its development partners are focusing on systematically addressing potential sources of renewed instability and thus contributing to the consolidation of peace. Their efforts to support the completion of the reintegration of ex-combatants into civilian communities are particularly commendable. I am also encouraged by both the goodwill shown by the development partners during the Consultative Group meeting in Paris and the emphasis they are placing on an approach that seeks to ensure a well-managed transition from peacekeeping to peace-building and from relief to development in Sierra Leone. I encourage them to contribute, in a timely manner, the resources needed in this crucial period of transition.

37. The indications of continuing support from the international community, together with the presence of UNAMSIL in the country for the next two years, provide a unique opportunity for Sierra Leone to further strengthen peace and security in its territory and address the root causes of the conflict. To this end, I would like to encourage the Government of Sierra Leone to take the necessary steps aimed at accomplishing the clear benchmarks relating to security, poverty reduction,

governance, economic performance and management issues, as set out in the Results Framework for 2003-2004 adopted at the Consultative Group meeting. In addition, the potential threat to stability presented by former combatants and disgruntled youth groups can be addressed, on a long-term basis, only through accelerated economic recovery that creates employment opportunities.

38. The implementation of the UNAMSIL drawdown plan is the most challenging operation undertaken by the Mission since the disarmament process, which was conducted from May 2001 to January 2002. It is a complex task that requires meticulous management of the risks involved in transferring security responsibilities to the Government of Sierra Leone and elaborate coordination, not only between the military, political and logistic components of UNAMSIL, but also with the relevant departments of the Government. Coordination with development partners is also extremely important, as their activities constitute an important component of the peace consolidation efforts on the ground.

39. As the drawdown of United Nations troops progresses and UNAMSIL vacates more areas, the challenges accompanying this process can be expected to increase. Nevertheless, given the nature of the force capabilities and configuration planned for each critical stage, UNAMSIL does not foresee any major security problems that it would not be able to surmount. The completion of the first phase of the drawdown plan and the progress made so far in implementing the second phase constitute an encouraging beginning.

40. However, much still needs to be done to strengthen the presence of the Sierra Leone police in the areas to be vacated by UNAMSIL in the second and third phases of the drawdown of UNAMSIL. While the arrangements for the training of new and serving police personnel are gathering momentum, these efforts need to be carefully synchronized with the pace of the UNAMSIL drawdown. Of particular importance are the efforts to mobilize the requisite equipment and logistic support for the expansion of the police which are lagging behind. The Government and its partners should expeditiously address the logistic and infrastructure needs of both the police and the army.

41. Even as UNAMSIL draws down, the peacekeeping force will, in addition to pursuing its primary responsibility of maintaining a secure environment, use its capacity to contribute to Sierra Leone's recovery efforts. In this context, the force continues to implement a programme of road improvement designed to further improve accessibility throughout the country. In a commendable effort, some contingents have continued to assist in the rebuilding of schools as well as in supplying potable water and implementing other projects that improve living conditions of the communities in their deployment areas, using the national resources of the respective troop contributors. As indicated earlier, UNAMSIL has also assisted UNHCR and other aid agencies in moving significant numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons around the country.

42. The efforts to address the conflict in Liberia and the threat it continues to pose to stability in Sierra Leone may be gaining momentum owing to the work of the International Contact Group on Liberia, which held its first meeting in Dakar on 19 December 2002 following its launching in September. The dialogue among the Mano River Union countries also needs to be re-energized. The emergence of a new conflict in Côte d'Ivoire with reported involvement of former armed elements from both Liberia and Sierra Leone has extended the area and complicated the nature of

the conflict in Sierra Leone's neighbourhood. This worrisome development gives added urgency to the need for a comprehensive regional approach. In this regard, I am greatly encouraged by the Security Council's proposal to develop a comprehensive strategy among the international community to address the situation in Liberia and to send an assessment mission to the region in early 2003, as indicated in its presidential statement of 13 December 2002 (S/PRST/2002/36).

43. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to the Security Council and the troop-contributing countries, as well as to the Economic Community of West African States and donor countries, for their continued support for UNAMSIL. I also wish to pay tribute to my Special Representative, Oluyemi Adeniji, and all UNAMSIL military and civilian personnel, and humanitarian and development agencies, as well as the donor community, for their tireless efforts to bring lasting peace and stability to the country.

Annex

United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone: contributions as at 20 December 2002

Authorized military strength: 16,900 (up to 260 military observers)

	Military observers	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Sector headquarters staff*	*Total*
Bangladesh	12	18	2 976	65	3 071
Bolivia	6				6
Canada	5				5
China	6				6
Croatia	10				10
Czech Republic	5				5
Denmark	2				2
Egypt	10				10
Gambia	15				15
Germany			12		12
Ghana	7	12	850	59	928
Guinea	11	5	773		789
Indonesia	10				10
Jordan	10	2	120		132
Kenya	11	14	995	65	1 085
Kyrgyzstan	2				2
Malaysia	10				10
Mali	8				8
Nepal	10	4	797		811
New Zealand	2				2
Nigeria	9	16	3 077	57	3 159
Pakistan	15	18	4 204	50	4 287
Russian Federation	15	4	110		129
Slovakia	2				2
Sweden	3				3
Thailand	5	5			10
Ukraine	5	5	639		649
United Kingdom	15	7			22
United Republic of Tanzania	12				12
Uruguay	11				11
Zambia	10	6	818	5	839
Total	**254**	**116**	**15 371**	**301**	**16 042**

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to table)

Force Commander: Kenya; Deputy Force Commander/Chief Military Observer: Pakistan

Civilian police: Bangladesh: 3; Cameroon: 1; Canada: 2; Gambia: 2; Ghana: 4; Jordan: 2; Kenya: 5; Malaysia: 4; Nepal: 5; Niger: 2; Norway: 3; Senegal: 2; Sri Lanka: 1; United Republic of Tanzania: 1; Zambia: 1; Zimbabwe: 2; **Total: 40**.

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